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Brief descriptions are presented of a number of Office of Education federal funding programs directly supporting educational facilities planning and construction. Programs now in operation and several currently under consideration are pointed out. Consideration is also given to several programs in federal agencies other than the Office of Education that are relatable to educational facilities planning, development, and/or construction. (FS)

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FEDERAL FACILITIES PROGRAMS

Presented by William W. Chase

School Facilities Council Conference
Las Vegas May 6, 1969

Educational facilities construction in this country is big business! With all the problems previous speakers have mentioned regarding planning, delays, public apathy. inflation, etc. approximately $7 1/2 billion were spent for this purpose. Of this amount, $2 1/2 billion was for higher educational facilities including junior colleges, $4 1/2 billion were for public elementary and secondary schools and $1/2 billion for private and other schools. Just imagine how much bigger this construction program would have been had more bond issues and State and Federal funding programs been approved!

Jordan has asked me to speak on the topic Federal facilities programs. This topic can always stir up a lot of conversation, much of it consternation and some of it controversy, depending upon your point of view (particularly whether you had a program funded or not). Without trying to take sides on the merits or demerits of Federal guidelines, authorizations versus actual appropriations, State plans, block grants and the like (Feds do have some concerns with the Hatch Act, you know), I will describe briefly a number of the Federal construction programs which are now on the books and the two or three that are currently under consideration. Significantly, there are several programs in other agencies than Office of Education that are quite relatable to educational facilities planning, development, and/or construction. I will point these out, also. In order to be more assistive, we have for distribution this outline of Federal funding programs that either support facilities construction or are relatable to it. You would be amazed at the number and the agencies. Copies of this outline will be available at the close of this session.

Federal programs directly supporting facilities planning and construction are mostly in the area of higher education. In FY 69, for example, the U.S. Office of Education administered the following construction programs, either as outright grants, or loans:

1. PL 815 - School Aid to Federally Impacted and Major Disaster Areas

2. ETV

3. Title I of Higher Education Facilities Act for Community Colleges, Technical Schools and Other Undergraduate Facilities

4. Title II of Higher Education Facilities Act for graduate facilities

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5. Title III of HEFA for loans to construct or improve undergraduate and graduate facilities

6. The Vocational Education Act of 1963 and the 1968 Amendments for area vocational schools and residential schools

7. Title II of the Library Services and Construction Act for public libraries

Further information on these acts may be obtained from Office of Education or the February 1969 issue of American Education.

The Federal Government to date has made few policy commitments in the area of public school construction. The long legislative history of school construction bills before the Congress, however, is ample evidence of concern for this problem. Sometimes it's like the saying "I feel for you but can't reach you!"

H.R. H.R. 517 has been introduced by Mr. Perkins which would provide Federal funds for construction of school facilities in areas of high concentrations of low income families. Hearings are scheduled to start on this soon. Some of you have probably been invited to testify on it.

A major push is taking place in the area of the community college program.

1. The administration has declared its intent to give strong support to community college expansion.

2. Secretary Finch and Commissioner Allen have both indicated publicly their interest in building new community colleges.

3. The President's budget for Fiscal Year 1970 includes a request under Title I of the Higher Education Facilities Act of $43 million for community college facility grants. These grants would continue to be allotted to State agencies.

4. Several items of legislation are being prepared and some have been introduced to Congress. None of the various bills, however, appear to be certain of passage to the point where they can be anticipated for planning purposes in 1970. Among these bills are: (A) "Higher Education Bill of Rights of 1969" introduced in the House by Congressman Reid of New York. Title XII of the Act would provide "startup grants for public community colleges and urban institutions." Grants would be to new community colleges, public technical institutes and other institutions of Higher Education for planning and other non-construction costs including land acquisition, site clearance, and designs for renovation of facilities. Grants would not exceed the Federal share equal to 80% and in no case more than $10 million to a single institution.

5. "Comprehensive Community College Act of 1969" introduced in the House on March 4, 1969 by Congressman Thompson of New Jersey (H.R. 8200). This is a bill to improve and increase postsecondary educational opportunities throughout the Nation by providing assistance to the States for the development and construction of comprehensive community colleges. The Bill calls for an appropriation of $1,500,000,000 for Fiscal Year 1971 and more in succeeding years through 1973. Allotments to States would be made based on a formula and on a State plan submitted to the Commissioner.

6. Presently there are approximately 890 2-year junior and community colleges of which 613 are public and 277 private. In the next 4 years 200 more are expected to open with a potential enrollment of 3,440,000.

Incidentally, our office is cooperating with the American Institute of Architects and the American Association of Junior Colleges in sponsoring a performance design contest of junior colleges. A major breakthrough here is that as finalists are pared down, members of the design judging team will make on-site inspections to see if the programs are functional and in keeping with the planning.

The Vocational Education Amendments of 1968 contain some provisions which will quite drastically reduce construction possibilities. There are "set-asides" in it which mandate that 15 percent of a State's allotment must be devoted to vocational education programs for the disadvantaged; 10 percent for the handicapped; and 15 percent for post high school training. Because of this 40 percent set aside most States will have considerable less funding for on-going programs. Guidelines for this are in the final stages of preparation and will be released soon.

There are a number of other Federal agencies supporting programs which are relatable to educational facility planning and/or construction. Among the agencies are the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Department of Interior, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, Economic Development Agency of the Department of Commerce, several agencies in the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and even the Department of Agriculture. I will point out a few of these programs in the time remaining and give an illustration or two where they have been put to very practical use. The Outline we have for you includes the program category, sponsoring agency, the authorization, purpose, who may apply and where to apply. If you have further questions later, don't hesitate to write to us.

Cities planning grants and a number of others.

The Department of Agriculture offers to boards of education or other authorized agencies surveys in soil, water, plant, and related resources for school location, site selection, protection, development, and use.

These are a few of the Federal programs relatable to facilities planning. It behooves you to follow these programs closely. We will do all we can to make this information available.

Other printed sources include such programs as the following:

DOT
Cooperative planning of highway corridors, that is multiple use of air space over or under expressways and multiple use of rights-of-way.

Economic Development Administration of the Department of Commerce has seceral developmental programs in economically depressed areas.

Department of Housing and Urban Development has a number of programs for comprehensive planning, acquisition of land for educational purposes, incorporation of neighborhood facilities centers in schools, urban beautification, open space demonstrations, public works planning advances, models.

Insofar as our own office is concerned, we have supported financially and have been personally engaged in a number of interesting activities. Among them are the encouragement of what we call educational facilities Charrettes (a multi-disciplinary approach to study and resolve educational facilities development problems within the context of total community planning needs); cooperation with the American Institute of Architects and the Educational Facilities Laboratory in production of a film on the school in the inner city. We also sponsored a conference on the educational park, and have just completed a series of facilities planning workshops where we have involved representatives of the Federal agencies I have already mentioned. If there is any way we can be helpful to you on any of these matters, let us know.